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Message Text

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20
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAB-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WTCLUVERIUS:WD
APPROVED BY NEA:HHSAUNDERS
NEA/IAI:WBSMITH
---------- 129323
R 042051Z NOV 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 260910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: WEST BANK AND GAZA ELECTIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 1707

1. DEPT AGREES WITH VIEW EXPRESSED REFTEL THAT WEST BANKERS AS UNLIKELY AS EVER TO ACCEPT INCREASED AUTONOMY FROM HANDS OF THEIR OCCUPIERS. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, IF THIS WOULD BE CASE TO THE SAME EXTENT IF GREATER AUTONOMY WERE TO COME AS RESULT ELECTIONS WHICH GOI APPARENTLY PLANNING FOR EARLY 1976.

2. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT PRIOR TO WEST BANK MUNICI-PAL ELECTIONS OF 1972, (GAZA WAS NOT INCLUDED), THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DEBATE WITHIN GOI OVER MECHANICS OF ELECTION--
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WHETHER TO APPLY THE VERY RESTRICTIVE JORDANIAN ELECTORAL

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LAW OR EXPAND FRANCHISE TO WOMEN, NON-PROPERTY OWNERS, ETC. JORDANIAN LAW WAS USED AT THAT TIME, WITH RESULTS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY TO GOI IN TERMS OF TURN-OUT AND PERSONS ELECTED.

3. SIMILAR DEBATE NOW TAKING PLACE WITHIN GOI, WE UNDERSTAND, AND WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS FROM USUALLY RELIABLE

ISRAELI SOURCES HERE THAT THOSE ARGUING FOR EXPANDED FRANCHISE MAY HAVE UPPER HAND. BEYOND QUESTION OF EXPANDED FRANCHISE, WE HAVE HEARD ALSO THAT CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN WITHIN GOI TO PERMITTING WEST BANK-WIDE ELECTIONEERING AND, PERHAPS, EVEN FORMATION OF PARTIES. SOURCES SUSPECT THAT ALLON MAY BE TAKING VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN WEST BANK/GAZA ELECTION DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GOI, WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING ISRAEL IN POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO HOLD UP ELECTIONS AND ELECTION CAMPAIGN AS ISRAEL'S STEP FORWARD ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

4. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE TEL AVIV'S VIEW OF INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 3 AND OF COURSE WILL CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING EVOLUTION OF GOI PLANS THIS REGARD. KISSINGER

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